REMARKS

Claims 13, 36, and 59 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 13-23, 36-46, 59-96, and 103-111 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 36, and 59 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huitema in view of Wilson.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 13, Wilson teaches a domain tree with nodes that represent names of *domains* in Figure 4 and at 7:23-46. A domain tree as taught by Wilson is not the same as a *network* object tree as recited in claim 13. A network object tree includes a logically hierarchical set of network objects each associated with a *numerical sub-network designation*, as clarified by the amendment to claim 1. For example, and without limitation, as described in the above-captioned application at page 14, lines 3-6, "[s]toring the sub-network designations as objects facilitates the reassignment of hosts to different sub networks by minimizing the number of modifications an administrator is required to make to implement a successful reassignment." Support for the amendment to claim 13 may be found, without limitation, in the above-captioned application at page 11, lines 1-23 and Figure 6. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that assigning a GUID to each object, in which GUIDs are used to uniquely distinguish different software component interfaces in the Microsoft Component Object Model ("COM"), as described in Wilson, for example, at column 6, lines 60-65, and column 8, lines 12-25, is different from a logically hierarchical set of network objects each associated with a *numerical sub-network designation* as recited in claim 1 as amended. As such, neither Wilson nor Huitema teaches that "the object oriented database comprises a network object tree that includes a logically hierarchical set of network objects each associated with a numerical sub-network network designation". In addition, neither Wilson nor Huitema teach that a "zone object tree and a network object tree are linked via a host object that is associated with the domain name and the IP address," as neither Wilson nor Huitema teaches such a network object tree. For at least these reasons, claim 13 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 14-23, 70-78, and 103-105 depend from claim 13 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons described above.

Claim 36 recites program code for carrying out the method of claim 13. Therefore, it is believed that claim 36 is also allowable.

Claims 59 recites a system for carrying out the method of claim 13. Therefore, it is believed that claim 59 is also allowable.

Claims 37-46, 79-87, and 106-108 depend from claim 36 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons described above.
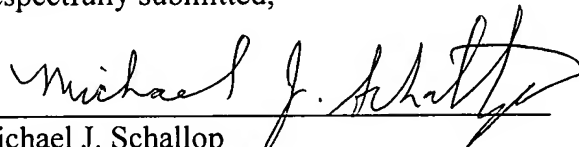
Claims 60-69, 88-96, and 109-111 depend from claim 59 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 13-23, 36-46, 59-96, and 103-111) are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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